



**Kingscliff Mini School  
Community Access Presentation**

**Tweed Shire Council**

**14 November 2013**

## **Kingscliff Mini School presentation to Tweed Shire Council**

### ***About Kingscliff Mini School***

- Kingscliff Mini School is a not-for-profit community preschool that was started in 1968 by the Reverend Peter Read in St. James Anglican Hall, Pearl Street, Kingscliff. It offered 2 sessions per day, 3 days per week and was initially run on a voluntary basis.
- Increased public awareness of the value of the preschool program resulted in the search for our own premises. The first application for Crown Land was made in 1973 but it was in 1979 that the present site was finally gazetted! Submissions for a government funded C.E.P. grant were eventually successful, resulting in our current venue in November 1985. Full day sessions were introduced in 1986 and in 1987, 5 full day sessions were operating.
- Kingscliff Mini School currently operates 5 days per week during NSW school term from 8.30am – 3.30pm with over 52 families attending the preschool program annually. The preschool caters for children aged 3-5 years and they attend a 2 day or 3 day program, with priority given to 4-year olds transitioning to school, children with additional needs, and children identified as disadvantaged and vulnerable.
- The preschool's vision is to continue to deliver a high quality service by meeting the needs of the community through the development of its premises to reflect increased demand for the service.
- Kingscliff Mini School is one of the few community-based preschools in the Tweed Shire to obtain an 'exceeding' rating under the new National Quality Framework. Children who have the best start in life create a better future for themselves, their community and for the nation.
- As a not-for-profit community preschool, families are provided with the education and care of their children in an environment that includes:
  - Increased staff:child ratios;
  - Programs that support children's connection with their peers and community, and their promotes continuous learning;
  - A comprehensive transition to school program;
  - A management committee comprised of parents and carers of children attending the preschool;
  - Operation of the service under the Service Agreement Guidelines of the NSW Department of Family and Community Services;
  - Delivery of programs that intrinsically follow the National Quality Framework (national curriculum) and the Early Years Learning Framework; and
  - A hub for the community where families can connect and find support.
- Kingscliff Mini School receives operational funding from the NSW Department of Education and Training, however remaining operational funds are obtained through the daily fees incurred by families.
- The preschool has over 200 applications each year for enrolment in only 52 placements from local families, with many children being placed on the waitlist from birth.

### ***Growth Program Funding /Development Application and Consent***

- In 2010, Kingscliff Mini School secured a capital works grant for \$200,000.00 from the federally funded *Growth Program* which required a development application be submitted to secure funding.
- October 2012 – a development application for a new scheme was submitted to Tweed Shire Council.
- August 2013 – Development Consent was provided by Tweed Shire Council for Development Application DA13/0025.

## **Fees**

- Fees incurred to date \$33,641.12
    - Survey, sound planning, DA application fee, soil contamination testing, architect, town planning and landscape
  - Contribution Fees
    - Tweed Road Contribution Fee     \$31,329.00
    - Water DSP5                             \$15,090.00
    - Sewerage                                 \$12,084.00
    - Drainage                                 \$    849.62
- Total    \$59,352.62**
- Tweed Shire Council has offered payment by way of a *Deferred Payment* - two instalments over two years.
  - Kingscliff Mini School is a not-for-profit community based preschool and does not have surplus financial resources to meet these fee requirements. Funding secured under the federally Growth Program is not sufficient to enable the cost of construction and the fees noted above.

## **Options**

- Option 1

Kingscliff Mini School requests that Tweed Shire Council, as the Trustee, recognises that the preschool is both a not-for-profit organisation and is a community-operated preschool, and does not have the capacity to incur these fees.

The Tweed Shire Council's 'Mission Statement' as outlined in its *Strategic Plan*, is to be: *"Working with community and partners, provide leadership in facilitating and delivering services that manage growth sustainably, create opportunity and enhance the value of our civic and natural assets for this and future generations"*.

Kingscliff Mini School requests that Tweed Shire Council waive the Contribution Fee aligning with the following objectives stated in the Tweed Shire Council *Strategic Plan*:

- Objective 1.2.2 Decisions made relating to the allocation of priorities will be in the long term interests of the community.
- Objective 1.2.3 Financial requirements and the community's capacity to pay will be taken into account when meeting the community's desired levels of service.
- Objective 2.1.1 Work closely with government and community organisations to improve services to children and families, youth, elderly, Indigenous people, disadvantaged and minority groups and to build stronger and more cohesive communities.
- Objective 2.3.1 Advocate for the provision of affordable and accessible health care, aged care, mental health, youth and family services and other community services.

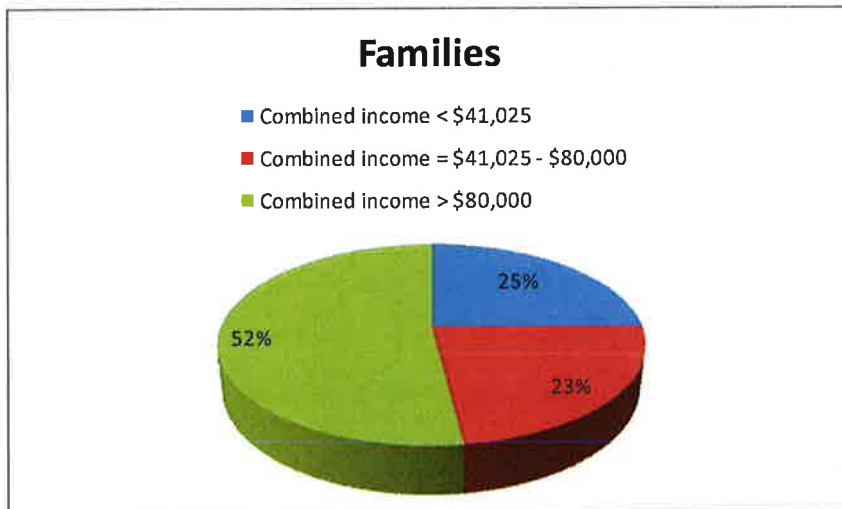
## **Outcome**

- Families and community benefit by increased access to quality early years education and care; and
- Kingscliff Mini School benefits by meeting its community need for access to preschool education.

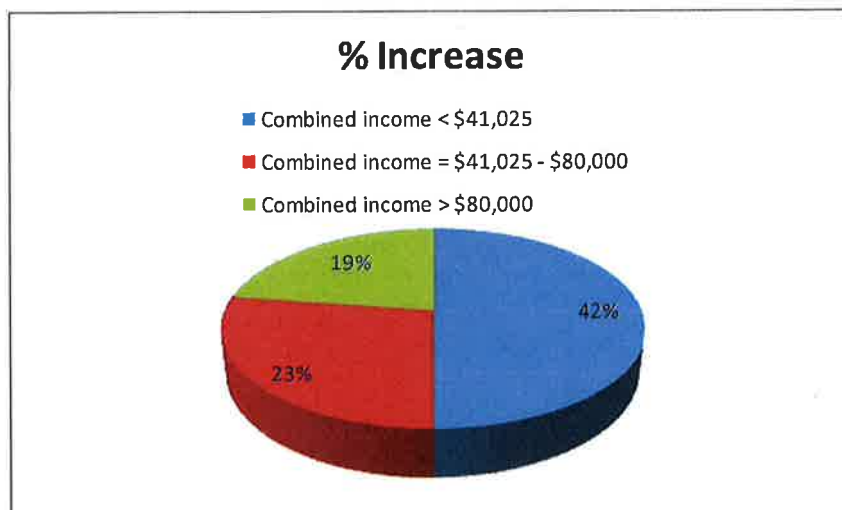
- **Option 2**

The families of the 52 children who secure placements each year will be required to pay an additional \$575.00 per year for their child's enrolment.

- 25% of families earn less than \$41,025 combined income per year or have a Health Care Card and currently incur enrolment fees of \$1,360.00 and an additional \$575.00 represents a fee increase of 42%
- 23% of families earn between \$41,026 and \$80,000 and currently incur enrolment fees of \$2,480.00 and an additional \$575.00 represents a fee increase of 23%
- 52% of families over \$80,000 and currently incur enrolment fees of \$2,960.00 and an additional \$575.00 represents a fee increase of 19%



- 48% of families attending Kingscliff Mini School have a combined income less than \$80,000.



- For 25% of the families attending Kingscliff Mini School on Health Care Cards/income < \$80,000 will incur a 42% increase in fees per year

**Outcome**

- The cost incurred to families will reduce accessibility for many children, particularly disadvantaged, vulnerable and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; and
- The greater long-term cost to the community should the extension not proceed.